

President's Letter

Happy Blue Year Solivita Democratic Club!



Our Annual Membership Appreciation Dinner event held on Wednesday, December 14, 2022, was a festive occasion with more than 100 attendees. This event also highlighted our Annual Club membership drive. As of this writing more than half of our 2022 members have renewed for 2023 and we've added quite a few new members as well!

If you haven't already, renew your membership at the earliest to continue to receive Club news and information. Tell your Democratic and Democratic-leaning friends and neighbors in Solivita about our Club and invite them to join us too!

You can start or renew your annual membership in 1 of 4 ways:

- Go to <https://solivitademocrats.org/club-membership/> to print the membership form and mail with your check (or print the form found on page 7)
- Or submit your payment via PayPal (click the Donate button)
- Or visit us at the Farmer's Market on Monday mornings from 9:00am – 11:30am
- Or join at our monthly membership meetings in the Ballroom

At our January 2023 membership meeting, we will hear the latest on the Bulk Video and Internet Services request for proposal from Bob Monica, Communication/IT Committee Chair.

We will also hear about the upcoming SDC Officer and Board

Brian Fillette, continued on next page



Pres. Brian Fillette

**WEDNESDAY
JANUARY 11**
MEMBERSHIP MEETING
In the BALLROOM
And on ZOOM
Doors Open at 6:30PM
Meeting at 7:00PM



Congratulations!
JOE TOBIN
OUR 2022 SDC MEMBER OF THE YEAR!

Read this month's column by Joe Tobin beginning on page 4.



Polk DEC Web Page



SDC Web Page



SDC Facebook Page



SDC NextDoor

Renew your SDC membership! Just \$15 per person. See application on page 4.

SDC BOARD

Brian Fillette, President

President@SolivitaDemocrats.org
704-641-2978

Ellis Moose, Vice President/ Beacon Editor/Webmaster

Beacon@SolivitaDemocrats.org
863-852-7294

Rochelle Quinn, Treasurer

RQuinn777@gmail.com
863-496-5313

Joan Sprain, Secretary

Joan.Sprain@AOL.com
651-261-9166

Kate Kohout, Membership Chair

KateKohout@yahoo.com
863-496-0481

Valerie Williams,

Ways and Means Chair, Acting
vpowell65@aol.com
631-455-4036

Dorothy Schwartz, Publicity Chair

SchwartzAPN@aol.com
732-207-3358

Diane Jorio, Hospitality Chair

DDJorio@live.com
443-262-1053

The Board of Directors meets the first Tuesday of each month via ZOOM.

Precinct Captains:

Leonard Guminski, Pct. 425
MariaDLenG145@yahoo.com
586-321-4711

Celeste Williams, Pct. 411
CelestynWilliams1@gmail.com
407-924-1766

Alan Harris, Pct. 411
AMHarris1212@yahoo.com
407-718-2525

Solivita west of Marigold Ave.

**Could Be You (2 Female, 2 Male),
Pct. 412**

**Solivita Bella Viana and
Venezia**

Ellis Moose, At Large

Beacon@SolivitaDemocrats.org
863-852-7294

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of Director elections from our Nominating Committee.

The positions of President, Vice President, Treasurer, Ways & Means Chair, and Publicity Chair are scheduled to be voted on by the membership for the next 2-year terms in March 2023.

If you are interested in joining the Nominating Committee, or learning more about the SDC Officer and Board of Director positions, please join us at the January membership meeting or contact any SDC Officer, Board member, or me for more information.

Thanks for all that you do, and most of all, thank you for being who you are.

Brian Fillette, President, Solivita Democratic Club

president@solivitademocrats.org

Visit our Website <https://solivitademocrats.org/>

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/solivitademocraticclub>

Nextdoor <https://nextdoor.com/g/qikq82agv/>

CALENDAR

JANUARY is...



- 1/1 New Year's Day**
Also **Ellis Island Day** (*I thought you should know!* -Ed.)
- 1/4 Dimpled Chad Day**
(Thank you, Floriduh!)
- 1/5 12th Day of Christmas**
Marks the coming of Epiphany, a Christian festival
- 1/8 War on Poverty Day**
- 1/14 Orthodox New Year**
- 1/16 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day**
Also **Civil Rights Day**
- 1/22 Chinese and Korean New Year**
Also **Roe vs. Wade Day**
- 1/25 National Florida Day**



REPRESENTATIVES

Our elected representatives need your input

Let them know your positions on issues!

Sen. Rick Scott (R)

United States Senate
Phone: 202-224-5274

Sen. Marco Rubio (R)

United States Senate
Phone: 202-224-3041

Rep. Darren Soto (D)

US District 9 Office
804 Bryan Street
Kissimmee, FL 34741
Phone: 202-225-9889

Gov. Ron DeSantis (R)

The Capitol
400 S. Monroe St.,
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001
Website: www.flgov.com

State Rep. Sam Killebrew (R)

FL House District 48 Office:
Phone: 850-717-5041
Email: sam.killebrew@myfloridahouse.gov

State Sen. Colleen Burton (R)

District 12 Office
100 South Kentucky Avenue Suite 260
Lakeland, FL 33801
Email: Colleen.Burton.web@flsenate.gov

MEDIA

The Orlando Sentinel

Editorial Dept.
633 N. Orange Avenue
Orlando, FL 32801

The Lakeland Ledger

Editorial Dept.
P.O. Box 408
Lakeland, FL 33802

SDC Beacon Newsletter

c/o Ellis Moose
217 Sorrento Road
Poinciana, FL 34759-4065
Beacon@SolivitaDemocrats.org

EDITORIAL

Virulent Misinformation Is Spreading Hate

By Marilyn Shapiro, SDC Member, shapcompl8@me.com



Much has been written recently about the Kyrie Irving's, eight-game suspension after the Brooklyn Nets' basketball star tweeted a link to a documentary containing antisemitic messages. *Hebrews to Blacks: Wake Up America*, is based on book of the same name by Ronald Dalton, Jr, which spouts virulent misinformation including Holocaust denial and claims of an international Jewish conspiracy. What many people may not be aware of is that Amazon continues to offer both the book, DVD and audiobook on its website. Requests by the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) and other groups to stop its sale have been met with deafening silence. In a letter addressed to Amazon's CEO Jeff Bezos, Jonathan Greenblatt, ADL's CEO, stated, "By platforming this film, and other clearly hateful content, you are knowingly and willingly propagating antisemitism."

In 2021, ADL reported 2717 antisemitic incidents throughout the United States, a 34% increase over 2020. The recent mass shooting in Highland Park Buffalo, Colorado Springs, Virginia, and others are other deplorable testimonies to the level of hate in this country. In the midst of your post-holiday shopping please do your part to urge Amazon and other retailers to remove these titles and others that profit off attacks on targeted populations. We all need to lessen the fire of hatred, not add to its flames.

Here is a link to the full article:

<https://theregoesmyheart.me/2022/12/20/is-this-any-way-to-stop-hate/>

Marilyn Shapiro, Author, Blogger, shapcompl8@me.com

Blog: www.theregoesmyheart.me



SDC Tee Shirts \$20

We've ordered new SDC Tee Shirts so you can show your true blue colors! Tees are just \$20.



Get yours at the Farmers Market on Mondays or at our monthly Club meetings held on the 2nd Wednesday each month in the Starlite Ballroom.

EDITORIAL

NO PLACE LIKE HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS AND EVERY OTHER DAY!

By Joe Tobin, SDC Member and Beacon Contributor



Recently I crawled out of bed for an early-morning doctor's appointment and headed straight to the coffee pot. When I went to fill it, I noticed a very acrobatic cockroach playing catch-me-if-you-can on the counter. When I finally caught him with a paper towel, I took him outside as a holiday reprieve and waved goodbye. However, the "little guy" started running back to the house but couldn't outrun me. I never saw him again. Upon reflection, it hit me that my little friend wasn't so stupid after all: in his eyes, my house was his house and why wouldn't he want to run back to it. *Dah!*

A Place Called Home. All living creatures, big and small, need a safe and secure place they can call home, whether a house, apartment, shelter or the great outdoors. For animals, it may be a hole in the ground, trees, rivers, fields or soil. Dumped on the streets, most people would fast reach a high state of anxiety and ask themselves, "where do I go tonight for shelter?"

Home and Community. As important it is to have that spot called home, it is equally important to live in a community that allows people to walk out their front door and feel safe and secure – a communal quality of life. Home and community are two sides of a coin. A community can foster peace and prosperity or fear and threats. While it takes many people to create a thriving community, it only takes a few to destroy it – as history has well chronicled.

The Search for Quality of Life. Quality of life reveals itself in many ways – high standards of schools, the availability of parks and recreational facilities, responsive police and fire services, trash pickup, water and sewage, hospitals and medical services decent and affordable housing and access to highways – in short, a place to provide a good place to raise children or to retire to.

People pick their destinations carefully. The Chinese and Romans could never build enough walls or fight enough battles to keep the so-called barbarians from overrunning their empires. Migrants from Africa and Asia land on European shores. In the last century many southern Blacks migrated to northern cities because of economic opportunities and better living conditions. Currently, migrants await entry on Mexican streets hoping to enter the United States for a better life and many Americans are migrating to southern states for economic reasons and warmer climates. As one doctor's receptionist remarked to me, "why pay \$3,600 a month for rent when I can pay \$1,800 a month in Florida and no state taxes."

Planning Issues. As the migratory shifts are continuously taking place, it falls to both state and local governments, Florida included, to plan for these changes while respecting the lives of those individuals and families currently living in the state. For most old-time Floridians, it is sad to see the orange groves or the cattle roaming the old ranch lands disappear as walled communities, four-story apartments and shopping centers take their place. The most disconcerting downside of the growth of this construction is "how long does it take to drive from home to work, home to the store and home to the doctor?"

A particular concern of rampant construction growth is the disappearance of trees and

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brush that help sustain wildlife. Except for animals such as bears or big cats, most animals sustain themselves within a limited land area. Once that land disappears, the animals have few options to survive, namely, to find other territories to occupy or to start moving into neighborhoods (and they do but at great risk).

Conclusion. As Florida grows in population, citizens need to monitor carefully what local and state agencies propose that affects quality of life (ex. the “Big Dig of Poinciana”). Both the agriculture and service industries need immigrant workers to fill their ranks, and the country needs a shot of young blood as society ages (so Congress get to work to find some immigration solutions).

As the new year begins, let’s hope that a sense of unity and sanity prevails across the nation’s communities and into the halls of Washington, D.C. **Happy New Year!**



**From
Sen. Rick Scott (FL-R)**



We think it is important for us to know what the opposition is doing and saying. That’s why we are including this letter from Scott to his supporters. -Ed.

Dear Fellow Floridians,

For nearly two years, we’ve seen the devastating impact of reckless spending and a growing national debt in Washington that has fueled a raging inflation crisis across America. As I’ve traveled that state, I’ve heard from countless Florida families about the pain it’s causing them at home and in their businesses.

That’s why, as so-called leaders in Washington work in secret to pass yet another massive, multi-trillion dollar spending package that no one has had the opportunity to read, scrutinize or suggest changes to, I’m fighting to end the backroom dealing and stop more reckless spending of your tax dollars.

With voters in Florida and across American choosing to put Republicans in power in the House of Representatives, it would be unthinkable to give Nancy Pelosi a multitrillion-dollar gift right after she’s been fired as House Speaker. I’m fighting to make sure Congress rejects the massive Pelosi-Schumer Spending Bill and instead passes a short-term funding bill to continue current government operations through the new year, allowing the new Republican-led House to do its part in writing a FULL, BALANCED budget.

Washington has been broken and unaccountable for too long and Florida families can’t afford another inflation-bomb spending bill. In 2018, you elected me to the United States Senate to make Washington work for Florida families and I’ve spent every day since working to protect your interests. I won’t ever back down from that fight.

Sincerely,

Rick Scott

United States Senator

Follow Sen. Scott’s actions and statements on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn.

MEANWHILE, see next page for more “Scott Logic”...

Florida Politics, continued on next page.

Florida Politics, continued from previous page.

Senator Rick Scott released the following statement after the U.S. Senate passed the Fiscal Year 2023 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). This year's NDAA includes \$857.9 billion in defense spending, ***\$45 billion more than President Joe Biden's inadequate budget request which did not keep up with his inflation crisis***, and a rescission of the Pentagon's COVID-19 vaccine mandate for service members. Senator Scott continues to fight to ensure that service member who were unfairly discharged have the opportunity to be reinstated with back pay.

Senator Rick Scott said, "Florida is home to 21 military bases and three unified commands, and proud of the important and strategic role we play in America's national defense. As a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, I fought hard this year to make sure the Sunshine State, America's national security initiatives, our military, veterans and their families got big wins in this NDAA. Since coming to the Senate four years ago, I've consistently advocated for major investments in our defense capabilities and to support Florida's military bases and our military families. The NDAA that passed the Senate today is a huge improvement over President Biden's woefully inadequate defense budget proposal and a great win for Florida, America's national security and our military community, but there is still work to do. While I'm glad this NDAA rescinds the Pentagon's COVID-19 vaccine mandate, I will continue to fight so that every service member who was wrongfully discharged has the opportunity to be reinstated with back pay."

Ed. note: So, immediately after calling the Federal Budget "a gift to Nancy Pelosi" and calling it "reckless spending" he claims that "\$812.9 billion in defense spending" would be "inadequate" and would "not keep up with **'his'** (Pres. Biden's) inflation crisis."

See what Scott did here? He claims that our defense budget can't live without an additional *\$45 billion*, while wanting us to believe all the money spent on education, healthcare, infrastructure and social services, etc., is just "a gift to Nancy Pelosi" and "more reckless spending of your tax dollars."

While Scott decries budget earmarks as examples of "backroom dealing," he then brags about the additional \$45 billion he stuffed into the budget so he can thump his chest over how **he** supports Florida's 21 military bases (and the companies that profit from them.)

Our December Member Appreciation Dinner was a smashing success!



Held on Wednesday, December 14, the party was a festive occasion with more than 100 attendees.

Joe Tobin was recognized as our Member of the Year and new member **Jerry Michaels** won the raffle prize (which was promptly nicknamed "Trump Tower," as it was full of nuts!





A chartered club of the Polk County Florida Democratic Executive Committee

Membership Form
Annual Membership dues are \$15/person

Please make checks payable to: **Solivita Democratic Club**

Mail to:
SDC Treasurer
586 Villa Park Rd.
Poinciana, FL 34759

Date: _____ New Member Renewing Member
First Name: _____ Last Name: _____
Address: _____
Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____
Email: _____

Full Time Solivita Resident? (Check one) Yes No
I am registered as: Democrat NPA (No Party Affiliation) Other Party Republican
 I am NOT registered to vote in Polk County, Florida



Membership Includes
Monthly Beacon Newsletter — Informative Meetings — Fun Events

Meetings are held at 7 pm, on the 2nd Wednesday of each month,
in the Solivita Starlite Ballroom and online via Zoom.

Visit Solivitademocrats.org for additional information.

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